

62 Sm Equal Rights

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Mrs. Max Rotter

of Milwaukee, who has been at the National Woman's Party Headquarters lobbying for the Equal Rights Amendment in the Seventy-first Session of Congress.

Equal Rights



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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]

Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.

Introduced in the House, May 18, 1928,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

Economics and Egotism

ON ANOTHER page of this issue of EQUAL RIGHTS we reprint two letters which appeared in the Providence *Sunday Journal* of June 23. Both of these letters, in their way, are classics, and should be preserved for posterity. They phrase, with sympathy and understanding, the two major arguments against the employment of married women: first, that married men with dependents need the salaries that married women now enjoy as the price of their labors, and second, that unmarried women, for economic reasons, also would like to take the married women's jobs away from them. The "argument" advanced in both cases against the employment of married women is that the sphere of woman is the home unless her husband needs her salary. Both of the letters are monuments of ignorance and egotism, enhanced by the astounding caption supplied by the Providence *Sunday Journal*. "Married Women Doing Men's Work," says the *Journal* in the head to these letters, and in the subhead, "Unemployed Heads of Families Unable to Support Dependents Because Positions Are Taken by Wives of Others Who Are Not Compelled to Work."

Poor English and worse economics. Unless the *Journal* assumes that all paid work belongs to men, there is no sense in this caption, and if it does make that assumption, what becomes of the unmarried women whom even the *Journal* would permit to be school teachers?

For the benefit of the unenlightened we rehearse the obvious reasons why married women should be granted the right to compete on equal terms with men and with unmarried women for jobs and salaries:

1. Women, even if married, are still human beings with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

2. Capitalist society for good and sufficient reasons does not award jobs or salaries on a basis of the neediness of the individual. The employer does not pay the idiot as much as the competent employe, even if the idiot needs it more and is married. If he did the employer would go out of business.

3. The wages of the majority of men in the United States are inadequate to support their families decently.

4. Every person, man or woman, married or unmarried, has a right to enjoy whatever wages he or she can earn in honest competition with his or her fellows. This dogma is based on the United States Constitution.

5. If no family has a right to a "double" wage so long as some families have no wages, unmarried sons and daughters should not be permitted to supplement the father's income.

6. The more wages earned and spent, the more jobs there will be for all people, married and unmarried, men and women.

THE last reason is the one upon which we elect to dwell. If a man earns fifty dollars a week and spends it, he can keep two workers at twenty-five dollars a week busy. If he earns a hundred dollars and spends it, he can keep four people working. If his salary drops to zero, all of them, himself included, are out of a job and earn nothing.

A simple point in economics, but one which apparently escapes the Providence *Sunday Journal*. The same facts hold with regard to the family. If the wife draws a salary and spends her money, which is likely, she affords employment to other people. They build her home, they make her automobile, they produce her "luxuries," they may even teach her children. If she does not work and spend, all these other people are out of a job, idle.

But the moron, who could not hold the married woman's job for a day, or even get it in the first instance, sees her working and drawing a good salary and he is covetous. "If she didn't have that job," says he, "I'd have it." But he wouldn't, because obviously the employer prefers his superior.

Economics and egotism mix like oil and water. The man who believes most firmly that the sphere of woman is the home is usually the one who has not the intelligence to earn enough money to pay a good servant. And the unmarried woman who covets her married sister's job conspicuously has not stood up very well in the competition.

We regret having to burden our readers with these oft-repeated and obvious facts in economics, but as one of our Rhode Island members wrote in sending on the letters for comment, "These unfair and misleading criticisms may pass without correction unless called to the attention of the National Woman's Party."

Dr. and Mrs. Soto-Hall Entertain Feminists

DR. AND MRS. MAXIMO SOTO-HALL of Buenos Aires entertained members of the National Woman's Party and members of the Inter-American Commission of Women at a luncheon at the Willard Hotel on Thursday, June 22.

Dr. Soto-Hall, editor of *La Prensa* and well-known Latin-American Feminist, is to make a good-will tour of Central and South America. He said the chief purpose of his visit to Washington was to study the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women and the National Woman's Party. He offered to do all in his power for Equal Rights in the countries he is to visit.

Guests at the luncheon on June 22 were Mabel Vernon, national executive secretary of the Woman's Party; Elsie Ross

Shields, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women; Ruth Sedgewick of the Pan-American Union; Mary Moss Wellborn of the Woman's Party, Mr. Louis Jay Heath and Mr. Harry W. Frantz of the *United Press*.

The following letter was sent to Dr. Soto-Hall recently by Miss Vernon in appreciation of the splendid work he is doing in behalf of Equal Rights for the men and women of the Americas:

June 29, 1929.

Dr. Maximo Soto-Hall,
The Willard Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Dr. Soto-Hall:

I want to tell you what a pleasure it has been to us to meet you and Mrs. Soto-

Hall. We feel it was a real honor to have you as our guests at National Woman's Party Headquarters.

We appreciate more than we can say your splendid support of Equal Rights. We shall always be especially grateful to you for securing the adoption of the resolution which laid the foundation for the Inter-American Commission of Women and pointed the way to complete equality for the women of the Americas.

We trust that you and Mrs. Soto-Hall have enjoyed your visit to our country and hope that we may have the pleasure of meeting you some time soon again.

With cordial greetings and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

MABEL VERNON,
National Executive Secretary.

Should Married Women Work?

WE reprint herewith two letters which appeared in the Providence, Rhode Island, *Sunday Journal* of June 23, as indicating the archaic type of the opposition against which the National Woman's Party has to contend:

"EXCLUDE MARRIED WOMEN FROM PUBLIC OFFICE JOBS"

"To the Editor of the *Sunday Journal*:"

"I note with satisfaction that the school board of Cranston has adopted a rule prohibiting the employment of married women as teachers in the public schools. This is a move in the right direction but it doesn't go far enough for, after all, Cranston is a comparatively small place.

"The employment of married women should be forbidden in every branch of the public service, city, State and national. No married woman should be permitted to hold any public job—if her husband is alive and physically able to support her.

"It has been my observation that in many cases where married women work in public offices, the husbands are already receiving an income large enough to support them in some comfort but the women hang on to the jobs in order to provide additional luxuries—meanwhile depriving unmarried women of a right to earn a living.

"I can cite a case in a nearby Massachusetts city where a man holds a State position which pays him \$5,000 a year while his wife hangs on to a county job which yields a salary of \$2,100. Meanwhile in the same city, unmarried girls who are fully capable of filling this woman's place and who must work if they want to live, are looking in vain for employment.

"I am old-fashioned enough to cling to the notion that woman's place is in the

home—unless her husband is a cripple. The employment of married women by private concerns, of course, cannot be regulated but it is a very simple matter to keep them out of public jobs. And it is about time to start in.

"J. L. D.

"Providence, June 19."

"To the Editor of the *Sunday Journal*:"

"SHOULD MARRIED WOMEN WORK?"

"This moot question comes up from time to time. In fact, I plead guilty to having discussed it 'con' in your columns. Now I have run across 'a new angle,' as the newspaper reporters say.

"A prominent American business man, in a recent address, declared: 'Women have invaded the business world and have come to stay.'

"Which may be true. But, if it is true, the situation will not do this country a bit of good.

"President Hoover seems anxious to mitigate the crime wave, which is principally the result of unemployment among men in general. Why not, therefore, relieve the situation and help solve the crime problem by running married women out of the industries?

"Other civilized countries have done it. In Great Britain and other European countries, in spite of great losses of man power as a result of the World War, there are actually fewer women working in the industries than there were in 1914. Much, of course, is said of unemployment in Great Britain. Then what it would be if the women were working—competing with men—as generally as they are in the United States today.

"I personally know of a half a dozen married women who are working more to be doing something than anything else. Some of them, perhaps, are enabling them-

selves to purchase extra bits of finery each week. But every one of them has a husband who is capable of supporting her comfortably.

"Doubtless there are hundreds of thousands of women in similar circumstances who are working, not because they are compelled to because of economic reasons, but because they think they have nothing else to do. Of course, it makes things easier for their husbands. But it's not so easy for the men who are kept from jobs because of this sort of competition.

If such women were to step out of their jobs, even the small-salaried positions, they would make way for now unemployed men, men of family, some of whom have been known to resort to crime in order to feed hungry mouths at home.

"And if such women should refuse to step out, they should be legislated out of their jobs.

"I am a firm believer in the adage that a 'woman's place is in the home'—that is, a married woman. Certainly her husband, who after all, is the main support of the household, is entitled to a real home in every sense of the word. And a married woman, who works six or eight hours of the day, is not giving her husband and her children, if any, the home to which they are entitled. It has been my experience that keeping up the domestic end of a household is a job in itself, leaving little time for outside activities, if done conscientiously.

"To me, it is not surprising that the United States, wealthiest nation in the world, has the lowest marriage and birth rate, the highest divorce rate and the greatest proportion of crime of any Aryan nation.

"H. E. R.

"Providence, June 19."

Swiss Feminist Outlines Dangers

MME. J. GUEYBAUD, a Swiss Feminist, foresees the need for women employed in business to guard themselves against the danger of new restrictive legislation designed to affect them as similar legislation affects women in industry. In *Le Mouvement Feministe* for May 24 and for June 7, she discusses that part of the program of the International Labor Conference, which is concerned with the hours of work of salaried employees. After mentioning the two methods of regulating hours, by law and by collective agreement, she says:

"One other question which arises in this connection is of fundamental importance to us women, the question of special legislation for women. It has been seen that gynecologists testify to the disadvantages of too long a work-day for women employed in stores. Will not an attempt be made, often even with a humane motive, to propose for women a working day of a different length from the working day of men? Or in the face of difficulties involved in putting into effect a system of shifts such as this, will it not be believed

that the solution lies in making a distinction between concerns which employ women and those which do not? To some people this may seem such a natural course of action that it is worth while to point out the danger in it.

"Not that anything so far in the report of the International Labor Office or in the draft questionnaire framed by it touches directly or indirectly upon this point, which is a matter for hearty congratulation. But there is need for us to consider the disturbing effect which discrimination of this sort would immediately have upon the mass of women who are earning their living in business. How many positions would be closed to them? In how many lines would they be restricted to certain jobs, and would not fewer of these lines even be open to them than at present, because of the difference in the treatment prescribed for them and for their male co-workers?

"The right thing—and we do not hesitate to say the right thing also for the family, whose interests are often put for-

ward as an argument—is the *same* regulations of hours of work for men and for women, the same for the fathers of families, whose children need their influence also, as for the mothers of families. Employees should be selected according to their ability and training, not according to an arbitrary limitation upon their capacity for work. And, lest anything contrary to this principle of regulating labor should be put into the preliminary drafts, it is advisable to keep a watchful eye on them.

"This is why it is of prime importance that women should sit in this conference to represent the interests of women, and why governments have been approached with this object in view by the national suffrage associations affiliated with the International Alliance. Unhappily the steps taken have come to nothing except in a few countries."

On June 21 the conference announced through the press that it was preparing a draft convention which, if adopted next year, would prepare the way for legislation affecting millions of office workers and other employees.

Femme—Avocat

By Phoebe Morrison,

(From the *Phi Delta Delta, Official Organ of Phi Delta Delta, Women's Law Fraternity*)

IT was all a matter of accident that, in going through the index of *Le Journal de Droit International Prive*, one of the leading French legal periodicals, called *Clunet* for the sake of brevity, the significant words "femme-avocat" caught my eye. For a period of forty-six years *Clunet* has been entering notices under that head, all of them brief and most of them important pages in a history in which we are so deeply interested.

It is amusing to observe that the first reference to the subject of women in law is a report in 1882 of a Massachusetts case¹ in which the court refused to admit women to the practice of law on the theory that women did not have the privilege of duties of a "public character." The French reporter added the statement that all the States in the United States did not take the same view and that a young woman in San Francisco had "recently . . . managed the defense of a criminal and obtained an acquittal."

Five years later there was a report on a Swiss case in which admission to the Zurich bar was denied on the theory that, without breaking the principle of equality before the law, the cantons might refuse to admit women to the practice of law because that privilege was a corollary to active citizenship, which women had not received either by historical precedent or by direct grant in the Federal Constitution or that the Canton of Zurich.

Belgium is reported in 1909 as refusing

to recognize women as competent to practice law. The Chamber of Representatives defeated the bill by an overwhelming majority.²

In the same year in Germany there was a different story. In Bavaria the Minister of Justice proclaimed a decree admitting women to the practice of law and it was stated that fifty women had taken advantage of the decree. The French reporter added the melancholy note that, during the eight years during which access to the French bar had been possible for women, a few had been admitted and that *L'Ordre des Avocats a la Cour de Paris* numbered only 2,000 and new blood was needed. In that year Fräulein Schultz of Hamburg in trying a criminal case in Hamburg went on record as the first woman to plead a case in Germany.

Egypt had its first trial by a woman in 1909. Nathalie Michel, who was also the first woman lawyer in Egypt, defended a merchant before the criminal court of the Mixed Court at Cairo. It is interesting to note that speeches of welcome and good wishes were made by various officers of the court and that the man who presided over the court is now a member of

the Permanent Court of International Justice.

France admitted women by special statute of December 1, 1900. In 1908 *Clunet* stated that "we have claimed for women the right to be solicitor, notary, public commercial agent, sheriff, judge, and even soldier. These views have not yet been realized. The march of progress has ever been slow."

Just after the close of the war an interesting case arose concerning a woman lawyer,³ in which it was held that a German woman who had married a Frenchman under the regime of the German law of 1870 on nationality, had become a French citizen and that, as proof of her loyalty to France had been given, she could be admitted. From the report it is evident that the case aroused considerable feeling and that Mme. Juven had a hard time making out her case on nationality requirements.

Paris has apparently turned a kinder face toward women lawyers than many other cities, for in 1917 there is a comment on Miss Tchong, a Chinese woman who, but for nationality, was qualified for the bar. In 1921 *Clunet* cited *l'Echo de Chine* as reporting that Flora Rosenberg, former member of the bar of Rennes, had tried a case before the Mixed International Court at Shanghai, the first woman to do so. Like Mme. Michel, she was greeted by speeches of welcome from the other members of the bar. The first woman to be

admitted in Russia, a Jewess, Mlle. Fleischer, had taken her doctorate in law at Paris.

The Anglo-Saxon frown on such unseemly behavior on the part of women is jovially reported, although the struggles of women in the United States do not seem to attract much attention. Eliza Roze's adventure with Judge Neville is given with laughter. "After the tumultuous shouting of the suffragettes in the streets, lo, England recognizes in the calm of the courtroom those of the women lawyers. One London Judge has had some experience with it; he did not seem to like it." Judge Neville's response indicated his rage. "Not only do I refuse

your admission but I shall also refuse to permit you to remain in the flowing disguise which you wear." (Miss Roze had presented herself in a black robe, wearing the traditional powdered wig.) The French reporter felt that the English were missing something, as there were plenty of women in the French courts and "C'est une charmante diversion aux soucis de l'heure presente."

When the way had been cleared by legislation and Ivy Williams was admitted in 1922, the discussion raged, not over the fact that women were crashing the gates of a forbidden profession, but over the clothes which she would wear. The fact that the report of this controversy is the

longest given in *Clunet* is not without significance.

If one feels indignant that *Clunet* has made no mention of the distinguished women who are members of the American bar, it must be remembered that we, in our turn, have not been too well informed as to women lawyers in Europe and these incidents which *Clunet* has reported are but fragments in a greater picture.

¹*Robinson's Case* (1881) 131 Mass. 376. Some of the other early American cases on this question are *Re Maddox*, 93 Md. 727, 50 Atl. 487; *Re Ricker*, 66 N. H. 207, 29 Atl. 559; *Re Thomas* 16 Colo. 441, 27 Pacific 707; *Re Leach*, 134 Ind. 665, 34 N. E. 641.

²*Clunet* does not report any changes in these laws under the head "femme-avocat." In an article by Guillo Diena (page 74, 1920) it reports that under the law of July 17, 1919, a woman in Italy may practice law on the same footing with men, provided she is a citizen.

³*Juven c Ordre des Avocats, Cour de Paris, 24 mars 1920.*

Greek Women Demand Vote

GREEK suffragists think it high time the recommendation made by the Greek Parliament four years ago that women be granted municipal suffrage should go into effect. President Venizelos has declared that the women of Greece are ready for suffrage. But the Government fails to act.

At a large meeting held in Athens recently demand was made for action to enable women to vote in the next municipal elections. Political leaders, university professors, and other prominent men attended, says *La Messager d'Athens*.

Among the speakers was Marie Svolos, who is a member of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party. Others represented women's organizations, women workers, farm women.

Men speakers brought the endorsement of the General Federation of Labor, the Federation of Teachers, and the Federation of Technical Associations.

M. Caphandaris, leader of the Progressive Party, who was unable to be present on account of illness, sent a letter in which he said: "You can overcome erroneous beliefs by reason, but you cannot use reason against a pretext. How can you answer by reason people who say that women must do in Greece what Mrs. Pankhurst and her associates did in England, that if they have not the courage to do that, they have no right to vote? We might as well say to men, 'We will give you political rights provided you do as much here as men had to do in France to get them—that is, make a new French revolution.'"

"Is there anyone who cannot see that such an argument is simply arbitrary refusal? There is no need of either meetings or new martyrs to obtain the right of suffrage for women. The granting of this right is a duty for a progressive State and a still more imperative duty for a true Republic."

The president of the Municipal Council at Athens said that both he and the Mayor were in favor of the measure, and that if there were technical obstacles in the way the council would aid in surmounting them.

A resolution was passed demanding the immediate promulgation of the decree giving women the right to vote in municipal elections and the introduction of a bill abolishing for these elections all special qualifications as to age and education.

Why Chase Girls Out of the City

By James Douglas

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—This article is reprinted from a recent issue of the *London Express*, which was kindly sent to *EQUAL RIGHTS* by Dorothy Evans, English Feminist. It shows an Englishman's view of the struggle for economic equality.)

IT IS a mistake to imagine that any great social problem is ever solved and settled finally and irrevocably, and that progress is a straight line. The enfranchisement of women is now complete. They are full citizens. There is no ban or bar upon them as electors.

But equality as voters does not mean equality as workers. It does not mean equality of opportunity in all trades or all professions. Women are still handicapped by their sex in the struggle for employment. The vote does not deliver them from the competition of men as barristers, solicitors, doctors, surgeons, architects, and other trade unionists.

There is a revolt against women as bread-winners. Men are trying to close every door that is half open. They have their backs against every door that is closed. The women are pushing and shoving hard. So are the men. As there are not enough jobs to go round all the men and all the women, the pushing and shoving is likely to grow fiercer.

The men have won a decisive victory in the battle for jobs in the offices of two great shipping lines, the White Star and the Royal Mail. The women clerks and typists have been banned and banished. Male clerks and typists have taken their places at the desk and the typewriter.

Two reasons are given for this ban on women. The first is that women are not as efficient as men. Sex is made the test of efficiency. Men as a sex are held to be more efficient than women as a sex. But ability is not distributed by nature along the lines of sex. Some men are more efficient than some women. Some women are more efficient than some men. It cannot be proved that all men are more efficient than all women.

The other reason is that women cannot all be trained for executive posts. But

this objection applies with equal force to men, for men cannot all be trained for executive posts. Catherine the Great, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Victoria were great sovereigns. They made history. The world today bears their stamp.

Our passenger ships in the past have been designed by men and they are still being designed by men, just like our houses and flats. Our shipbuilders, house-builders, and flat-builders would do well to seek advice from women who know what women want as ship-dwellers, house-dwellers, and flat-dwellers.

The other day I went with my wife to look at a modern flat. It was ingeniously uncomfortable. There was no larder in it. There were hardly any cupboards. It was a man's idea of a home. No woman would have designed it.

If the revolt against female clerks and typists should spread, and there should be a wholesale exodus of women from our offices, there is a haven of refuge for the

exiles. They would all be welcomed with open arms in our middle-class homes as cooks, kitchenmaids, housemaids, and parlormaids.

Domestic service is dying out. As the older servants vanish their places are not being filled by the younger generation. There is a dearth of young cooks. Soon there will be no cooks. Families are being driven out of houses into flats and out of flats into service flats, hotels, and boarding houses. The servant famine will increase until our girls resume domestic service as a career. In order to induce them to do so we must pay higher wages and raise the status and the standard of domestic service, as well as its comforts and amenities.

Otherwise men may supplant women

as domestic servants. I know a house which is run by two men. Their wages are twenty-five shillings a week. There is no reason why unemployed men should not do the work of women. If our women will not work in the home let men take their vacant posts.

Our women are deserting the home. Let the men who are workless qualify themselves to replace them. There is nothing unmanly in cooking or cleaning. Men cook in our hotels and clean our streets. I see no reason why they should not cook in our kitchens and scrub our floors.

There should be no sex ban in either our homes or our offices. Let us have a free interchange. Let us abolish our silly sex taboos. There would be more work for everybody if they were relaxed.

Sex is not a test of ability at all. The brain knows no sex. Therefore free competition between men and women is bound to produce the greatest efficiency. If we exclude women from fields of work suitable for them we set men free from their special rivalry. We create a coddled and pampered class.

Men possess physical advantages which exclude women from many trades and avocations. Let them be satisfied with their monopoly of the hard and heavy work of the world. Let them not shirk the contest with women in work that does not require physical strength.

Brain against brain—that is the right rivalry. Let the woman with the good brain have her opportunity as well as the man with the good brain.

Press Comment

A Woman Party Whip?

New York World,
June 21, 1929.

IT is not outside the range of political possibilities that a woman may be invited to assume the leadership of her party in the Lower House of the New Jersey Legislature at the coming session. Seventeen women were in the primary contests held throughout the State. Five have membership in the present House, including Miss May M. Carty of Jersey City, who, having served five years and having won in the primary, will, if elected, be entitled to recognition for Democratic whip.

It would be an interesting innovation in politics to clothe a woman with the special powers which go with floor leadership. How would she go about her task? Would she command or cajole? If the Democracy of New Jersey were to select this experienced feminine legislator for the post, the proceedings of the session would be watched with renewed interest by the people of the State.

For Equal Labor Rights

New York Times,
June 23, 1929.

FOLLOWING a great deal of discussion in the Socialist press of Germany of the propriety of married women working for wages in cases where it is not absolutely necessary, the highest authority of the Socialist Party of that country, the national convention, which ended its sessions in Madgeburg on May 31, went on record for equal industrial rights for all women by adopting the following resolution:

"In order to attain the aim of socialism—the transformation of the capitalist system of private industry into the system of social public industry—it is necessary to have the collaboration of woman as well as of man. In Germany woman, it is true, has political equality, but she

is not yet free economically and socially.

"Today there are 11,500,000 women in industrial life, of whom 3,700,000 are married. Many persons think that to crowd these latter out of industrial life would be a means of relieving unemployment. Today it is numerically, as well as technically, impossible to force woman out of the shop and replace her by man. Furthermore, such action would violate the social democracy's established principle of the right of woman to industrial labor.

"Consequently, in line with the resolution of the Marseilles congress of the Socialist International of 1925 and supported by the Heidelberg program, the convention recognizes woman's Equal Right to industrial labor."

Women Have Long Cleaned Paris Streets

By Michael Bliss.
New York Telegram,
May 29, 1929.

fifty years or more to my knowledge, and they do it better than the men do the cleaning here in New York. Here they sweep dry dust, but these women, with the hydrants, wash the streets with long birch brooms. These industrious women do this before the city is awake.

Equal Rights in Jilting

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall,
New York World.

of the suit for half a million which is being brought for alleged breach of promise against the newly wed Gene by Mrs. Kath-

THE National Woman's Party wants women street cleaners. Why not? Women exclusively have been cleaning and swilling the streets of Paris, France, the last

GENE TUNNEY needs no defenders, we're not passionately anxious to defend him, we have no right to prejudge the merits

erine King Fogarty, divorced wife of a plumber in Fort Worth, Texas. Nevertheless, the news stories of this latest attempt to collect what the headline writers like to call "heart balm" rouse us to protest, not in the name of the ex-prizefighter, but in the name of women, against the whole breach of promise business—its injustice, its insult to womanly pride and self-respect, its cheap vulgarity.

Along with many alimony awards, we'd like to see damages for breach of promise thrown out of the courts and the statute books. The right to collect such damages is based on a false, archaic, humiliating valuation of women. One of the battle cries of freedom, in the still-continuing struggle for Equal Rights, ought to be, "Equal Rights in Jilting."

For what reason was the breach of promise suit ever entertained in law? The chief logical ground which we can see was that, in former times, marriage was almost the only way women had of making a living. Breach of promise to marry not only did a woman out of a life job; it hurt her chances of getting a similar job at a later date. If the news got around that the man who had engaged her to be his wife had gone back on his bargain, the next man might wonder if she was fit to be his own spouse. Damages for breach of promise, then, repaired an economic injustice as definitely as the functioning of the employers' liability act now compensates the employe whose injury handicaps him from pursuing his trade.

We're no lawyer, and lawyers may laugh at our reasoning, but it seems a sensible explanation of "heart balm" as originally awarded. The point we wish to make is that such an award is no longer justified by the facts. The modern woman is not compelled to marry for a living. The circumstance that her fiance changes his mind should be no economic handicap to her, however it may weigh

down her heart with sorrow. Why, then, should she collect tangible damages for an intangible hurt? There is no check-book cure for love humiliated or thrown aside.

It is time that women, who now claim political and economic equality, should accept romantic equality. Always it has been a woman's privilege to change her mind—or heart. It should be just as much a man's privilege. And even if the woman he jilts loves him deeply and passionately, and suffers torments at his departure, she should be thankful that he

found out he didn't want to marry her before they were married—instead of after.

All of us know, of course, that the deeply loving and truly wounded woman could not dream of dragging her love affair into court, of making public and vulgar and cheap her intimate feelings and experiences for the sake of financial reward. All of us know that a breach of promise suit is often either a sordid attempt at blackmail or a furious woman's mean vengeance. In either case, it is a feminine proceeding which revolts decent feminine

ideas and instincts. Who would not wear her heart upon her sleeve for daws (lawyers and newspapers) to peck at, must wince for her sex when she sees another woman doing so.

Do let women make up their minds to be better sports in both love and marriage, and to let a man go when he wants to go without howling to high heaven that they'll have his money or his life! P. S. As if any man who wanted to go were worth keeping or punishing—why flatter his vanity by making such a fuss over him?

Feminist Notes

Woman Theology Graduate

FOR the first time in the history of the institution, a woman was graduated June 4 by Crozier Theological Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania, at the sixty-first commencement exercises. She is Martha Lowrie Zecher, a resident of Chester and a student at the University of Pennsylvania. Fourteen students received diplomas and degrees.

Another Brazilian State Denies Suffrage

A TEST case on the women's suffrage question was recently settled in the State of Para when Maria Aurora Pegado Beltao, 40 years old, a widow and school teacher of Belew, and her sister-in-law, Corina Martins Pegado, applied for registration as voters.

Judge Datas Calvacanti turned down their petitions, holding that the constitution's reference to "citizens over 21 years of age" does not apply to women.

Judge Calvacanti delivered to the petitioners a lecture on the doctrine that "woman's place is in the home."

Two or three Brazilian States, starting with Rio Grande do Norte, have enfranchised women, while others have denied the vote to their women.

For Partial Economic Justice

A BILL has been introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies which would permit women to be appointed clerks and assistant clerks under justices of the peace. One of the reasons offered in support of the bill by its sponsor, Louis Proust, is that women are already doing the work of these posts without having the title, and that in the country, where the clerk's office is in his home, it is often his wife or daughter who attends to the greater part of the business, while he engages in more remunerative occupation. The bill is limited to offices of justice of the peace because it is in this jurisdiction, where the pay does not attract competent men, that women are most needed, and because a bill thus limited in scope is likely to meet less opposition than one

which would throw open to women similar posts in all courts. It has the support of the National Council of French women.

Deputy State Treasurer

FLORENCE EVERETT is now deputy treasurer of the State of Washington. She took office April 1. Miss Everett has been working in the State Treasurer's office since March, 1917. Her first employment was as a stenographer, next chief warrant clerk, and later promoted to position of chief securities clerk. This latter position involves the keeping of records of all bonds deposited in the Treasury Department by different State depositories and insurance companies as well as bonds owned by the State, which total more than \$50,000,000.

Curious But Logical

IN the 1929 elections to the Tokio Chamber of Commerce, there were, according to the *Japan Chronicle*, 940 women in business for themselves who were entitled to vote. Two of these were keepers of houses of prostitution. This circumstance gave rise to a debate in Parliament. Decision was in favor of the women, on the ground that "business is business," whatever its nature. "So long as this kind of business continues to be protected by the Government," comments the *Chronicle*, "it will be considered legitimate." This story is obtained from *La Francaise*, which reprinted it.

Swiss Women Seeking Vote

THE women of Switzerland are securing signatures to a petition for equal voting rights for men and women. Proposals for woman suffrage have been voted on and rejected in the cantons of Geneva, Neuchatel, Basle and Zurich since the war, but a proposal for woman suffrage has never been put forward on a national basis. The petition will bring the proposal before the National Council. If the National Council approves, it may propose the change to the Federated Council,

when it would have to go back to the National Council and the Council of States before going to the electors for a referendum. All this procedure would take four or five years, so that Swiss suffragists apparently have no immediate prospect of the success of their cause.

Votes for Women—or None for Men

UNDER the heading, "Women Upset the Ballot Box," *La Francaise* reports that during the recent French elections women invaded the polling place at Encourtich in the department of Ariege, near the Spanish border, and seized the ballot box and the ballots. Police were unable to cope with them. *La Francaise* adds: "We do not yet know all that happened in every department."

It will be remembered that French women, after having had their hopes raised by the Government's promise to support the bill giving municipal suffrage to women, saw themselves deserted by the Government, and the suffrage bill again refused consideration in the Senate on the eve of election.

For Equal Rights in India

MRS. S. N. RAY, B. Sc., of London, told the All-India Women's Social Conference held in Calcutta in December that the emancipation of women is a necessary factor in social and political regeneration. She specified inequalities in laws of inheritance, in morality laws, in marital rights, as demanding rectification. Seconded by M. Lakshmi, M.A., she urged equal legal, political, and civil rights for men and women.

Gains for Equal Nationality

THE *Tablet* reports that a new law has been passed in Yugo-Slavia, which provides for the retention of her nationality by any woman marrying a foreigner. She must, however, make a written statement on a special printed form before the ceremony, otherwise she automatically accepts her husband's nationality, and there can be no subsequent alteration,

French Women for Equality

THE suffragists of Poligny, a city in the eastern part of France, include in their demands the following: "That equality shall no longer be an empty word, that it shall from now on be put in practice, in regard to women as well as to men, in regard to all matters, in every field, in every occupation, and concerning every right."

Outstanding Orchardist

VELYN HARRIS of Betterton, Maryland, who has a pear orchard of 40,000 trees, is said to be the most extensive woman agriculturist in the eastern part of the United States.

In addition to her orchards, she owns and operates half a score or more large farms in adjacent sections of Maryland.

But it is her pear orchard that nets the largest financial returns.

In London and Paris where large quantities are sold, her pears fetch a higher price than the native grown, says the *Christian Science Monitor*.

The Government regards the Harris orchard as a model fruit farm, and stresses the methods of treating the trees in fighting pests, and in caring for the soil, in its reports for the guidance of less experienced farmers.

In addition to her manifold outdoor activities, Mrs. Harris devotes much of

her time to home keeping and to civic matters, and to general uplift work in Maryland. It is estimated that her income from her orchards and farms reaches as much as \$30,000 a year.

Concentrating on the Die-Hard State

BRAZILIAN Feminists are concentrating their efforts on Sao Paulo, the center of the opposition to the enfranchisement of women, according to a dispatch from Sao Paulo to the New York *Herald-Tribune*.

Two years ago the first woman in Brazil to vote cast her ballot in an election in the State of Rio Grande do Norte, and since that time several other States have enfranchised women. Although the Constitution does not specifically refer to sex in establishing the eligibility of voters, women have not yet succeeded in having courts order election boards to enroll women as voters in Sao Paulo.

Bertha Lutz, president, and Dr. Ormin-da Baston, counsel, of the Brazilian Federation for the Promotion of Feminine Progress, are organizing a branch of the association in Sao Paulo.

Heads Teachers in England

LEAH MANNING, who has been elected vice-president of the National Union of Teachers, with automatic succession to the presidency next year, is not

unknown in America, for in 1926 she was awarded, by the English-Speaking Union, the scholarship given by the Women's Clubs of America to a British woman teacher. She proved a popular speaker in the United States.

Despite the fact that two-thirds of the 130,000 members of the union are women, this is only the fourth occasion in its history of 59 years that the union has elected a woman to its chief office.

Mrs. Manning is headmistress of an open-air school in Cambridge. She has done much public work and is a justice of the peace. Much of her work has been on behalf of various women's causes, but her chief activities have been devoted to the cause of education.

In her own union she has acted as chairman of the law committee, and has made a very special study of the teachers' claims to safeguards under schemes of reorganization.

Japanese Women in Medicine

JAPAN has 1,200 graduate medical women and 800 women students of medicine, according to the *Medical Woman's Journal*.

Women Doctors in Paris

THERE are 243 women doctors in Paris, of whom 145 are married, says the *Medical Woman's Journal*.

News from the Field

Dr. Wold to Address Institute

DR. EMMA WOLD, Legislative Secretary of the National Woman's Party and attorney-at-law in Washington, will address the Institute of Public Affairs to be held at the University of Virginia in August on the subject of Nationality. Dr. Wold has made a thorough study of nationality, her compilation on this subject covering the laws of seventy-two countries.

The Institute is particularly interested in having Dr. Wold speak on nationality at this time, since this is one of the subjects to be considered at the Conference on Codification of International Law, which will be held, according to recent announcement, at the Hague in 1930.

Mrs. Rotter Interviews Senators

MRS. MAX ROTTER of Milwaukee, vice-chairman of the Wisconsin Branch of the National Woman's Party, was in Washington for the last two months of the special session of Congress for the purpose of making a thorough canvass of the Senate on the subject of the Equal Rights Amendment. During this time she devoted herself unceasingly to the work and succeeded in interviewing two-thirds of the members of the Senate.

Mrs. Rotter says there is decided interest among the Senators in the legal discriminations against women, and her reports indicate increasing support for the Amendment.

Mrs. Rotter expects to complete her canvass after the Senate reconvenes on August 19.

Plan to Remodel New Headquarters

MEMBERS of the Woman's Party Committee in charge of remodeling the new headquarters met in Washington Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Mrs. Richard Wainwright acted as chairman of the committee in the absence of Mrs. John Winters Brannan, chairman. Other members of the committee attending the meeting were Florence Bayard Hilles of Delaware and Mrs. Valentine Winters of Ohio.

Mrs. Kenyon Hayden Rector of Columbus, Ohio, an architect and a Founder of the National Woman's Party, came to Washington to consult with members of the committee. She assisted in its work by making an analysis of the requirements of the new building and a general study of the property.

The new headquarters, situated at the corner of Second and B streets N. E., is

one of the historic houses of the National Capital, having been built by Lord Baltimore for his daughter. The remodeling committee is proceeding carefully with its plans in order that the architecture of the house may be guarded as necessary alterations are made. It is believed several months will be necessary for the work of remodeling.

Clause for a Gift by Will to the National Woman's Party

Believing that women should have Equal Rights and opportunities with men before the law, in the professions, in industry, in education, in the church, in the home, and in the conduct of our Government, I give to the National Woman's Party, a corporation of Washington, D. C., the sum of.....dollars to further its work for the advancement of women.

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